



POLISH TECHNICAL REVIEW





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From the editors

At the beginning of the eighties Poland's economy has found itself in a state of deep crisis: material production has declined, there has been a decrease in the utilization of the production potential, labour productivity has dropped together with the general effectiveness of management. This period has been marked by a lack of confidence between the people and the government. To put it briefly, this situation was due to an undemocratic functioning of the political institutions, an insufficient control of the methods of exercising power and in a departure from the principles of a socialist planned economy. The admissible level of indebtedness abroad has been exceeded: the large production potential of this country could not be fully utilized because of a shortage of raw materials and elements produced in cooperation with other factories or countries, especially those imported from western states. The industry fails to cover the needs of agriculture in the field of production means. In industry itself, disproportions have been growing. This is best illustrated by the inability of producing enough fuels and energy to meet the needs of other industries. The purchasing power of the population has considerably exceeded the supply of goods and services which has desorganized the domestic market. To get out of this crisis is not an easy task. The programme of the new government, based on the resolutions of the Extraordinary Congress of the Polish United Workers Party (July 1981) envisages that a several years period will be needed to restore the balance on the market and the following measures will have to be taken:

- activities in the field of economic policy leading to a growth of industrial and farming production, economies of raw materials and materials, normalization of cooperation ties, growth of effective exports and an improvement of the situation on the domestic market;
- a deep economic reform leading to an increased autonomy of enterprises with a simultaneous introduction of new principles of planning;
- cooperation of social forces in coping with economic difficulties.

In one of our next issues, we intend to include an extensive article devoted to the economic reform and the problems connected with the Polish foreign trade, especially in the light of making use of the Polish production potential. The current issue presents the new products offered by the Polish mining machinery industry, shipbuilding, industry of foundry equipment, chemistry, medical equipment, control-and-measuring equipment, etc. The issue includes an extensive article on the mine and power station of Belchatów being presently the largest power investment in Poland. In this way we wish to emphasize that investments of vital importance for the national economy, based on modern design and technical solutions mostly developed by Polish designers and constructors, are being continued thus providing a base for the liquidation of the existing disproportions and for raising production based on sound principles.

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